
Florence Township

www.florencetwp.org • florencetwp@mchsi.com

Goodhue County, MN • 2009 Annual Newsletter • March 2009

PO Box 97 • Frontenac, MN 55026

Your Township Government:

Florence Township is governed by five elected officials

Your Current Board is:

Joan Marshman, *Chair*

John Wurst, *Supervisor*

Joe Ellingson, *Supervisor*

Sue Eisenmenger, *Clerk*

Bill Laidlaw, *Treasurer*

*Agenda
for the Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2009*

The meeting commences at 8:00 p.m. on March 10 at the Township Hall

1. Call the meeting to Order
 - a. Declare the election closed
2. Elect a Moderator to conduct the Annual Meeting
3. Pledge to the Flag
4. Read the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting
5. Committee Reports:
 - Cemetery
 - Friends of Town Hall
 - Planning Commission
 - Heritage Preservation
6. Present the Audit report for 2008
7. Present the proposed budget for 2010
8. Public comments and discussion
9. Announce the outcome of the election
10. Establish the time and date of the 2010 Annual Meeting
11. Adjourn



This newsletter is being distributed to the residents of Florence Township in order to inform and prepare them for the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10 at 8:00 p.m. at the Florence Township Hall. At the Annual Meeting you have the opportunity to express your views and help determine your taxes for the next year.

Township Election

Two positions are up for election this year. Supervisor for a three-year term, and Treasurer for a two-year term.

Candidates that have filed:

Supervisor: Mike Blair. Mike and his wife, Joann, have lived in the Lake City and Frontenac area for many years. He works in sales in the building industry. Mike has been involved in government as he was on the Lake City council for several years plus the EDA Board and the Tree Board.

He was also an EMT in Lake City for five years. They like the area and want to be involved in township government.

Treasurer: Thomas Gnotke. Thomas and his wife, Nicole, have resided in Frontenac area for many years. Thomas is presently the Financial Director for the Prairie Island Indian Community.

He is interested in township finance, likes the community and would like to be involved in township government.

**The election will be held Tuesday, March 10
at the Florence Township Hall.**

The polls will be open from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

The Annual Meeting will follow.

Building Permit Procedures

A building permit is required for all new construction and most remodeling. To determine if you need a permit, call the County Zoning and Land Use Management office at 651-345-3104.

If you live in Old Frontenac, you must acquire approval from the Heritage Commission first. Call Cory Koplín at 651-345-3270. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Then call Sue Eisenmenger at 651-388-6041 to fill out a permit and get on the town board agenda for their approval. They meet on the 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m. Then your request will go to the County Planning Commission.

Goodhue District 4 County Commissioner Report

By Jim Bryant

Goodhue County Commissioner

How is everyone holding up after this long old fashioned winter? At least we had a warm spell in February. This year our county snow plows were on the road many early mornings trying to keep the roads cleared of snow. It was difficult at times, especially with the ice and cold temperatures.

One thing that has sure changed in Frontenac is Highway 61. I know there was a lot of work by many of you on this project. There clearly was some give and take by residents along 61 and others in Frontenac. In the end I think we can agree that the road is much safer for all that are turning and traveling through the great community of Frontenac. I have had many good comments on how it turned out and that is a tribute to all of you.

Goodhue County Conditional Use Permits and Building Permits. Both permits are handled by the Land Use Management Department. Each applicant that is looking to apply for a Goodhue County conditional use permit and a building permit can go to the Goodhue County

website at www.co.goodhue.mn.us Otherwise the phone number for Land Use Management is 651-385-3104. By going to the website you can download a Township and County application. The website has quite a bit of information to help you apply for a permit. Further information on how to apply can be found on the web page. Information can also be mailed to you by calling 651-385-3104.

Fee for the Conditional Use Permit. Some things the fee covers are mailings to neighbors of the person applying, public notice to the papers, time by staff to review the application and site diagram, site visits and costs to hold the evening meetings. Conditional Use Permits are brought before the Goodhue County Planning Commission which normally meets the third Monday night of each month. An e-mail can also be left for staff in the Land Use Department. Please give staff a call anytime you have a question on these permits.

With the economy not doing very well, private businesses, residents and even government agencies have been affected by the impact. Goodhue County received \$450,000 less in state aid at the end of December that we had planned for and had mostly spent, as December 31st, is the end of Goodhue County's

fiscal year. We know we will be receiving less and are making plans on what to cut, not fund and do without. So far we have not filled several positions that have become open as a result of a retirement or is someone leaves employment with the county. As a Department, we are working to try and keep fully staffed is our Dispatchers/911 operators and Patrol Deputies within the Sheriff's Department.

As we go forward we keep hearing how the state deficit is growing. We are watching that and keeping in contact with our State Legislators on how it will impact Goodhue County. It is my belief that we all will see that government agencies will look very differently in the next 2 – 3 years. I for one do not think that is a bad thing. It challenges us to look at how we do things and how we can do them differently or without.

I plan on stopping by your annual meeting as I try to get around to all of them that night. I appreciate the opportunity to get some information in you newsletter and look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting at some point in the evening. Any questions or comments please contact me at 651-388-5558 or at jcbryant@kmwb.net



Florence Township Supervisor's Year in Review

2008 was a year of accomplishments for Florence Township and all its commissions and committees. The Planning commission has been working hard on several issues including the protection of township sensitive areas. The Township Heritage Preservation Commission continues to oversee all township historical concerns. The township parks upkeep and maintenance are a major concern of the Heritage Commission. Due to extensive amount of work that needs to be done, volunteers will be greatly appreciated to accomplish all these tasks. There are vacancies on the Heritage Preservation

Commission and all interested township residents should contact Cory Koplin. The Friends of the Town Hall continue to amaze us with all the various parties and events. The new History Center at the town hall has grown. Take a few minutes before the meetings to go and see all the artifacts that have been accumulated. Please contact Virginia Oliver if you have something to contribute to the Center. Once again, all Town Board, Commission, and Committee meetings are open to the public. You need not be a member in order to attend and get involved with any of the committees.

After a summer of dust, noise and inconvenience, the Highway 61 expansion project was completed. A

special Thank You to all the township residents that attended the meetings with MN/DOT, County, State and Federal officials. Without your support. Rep. John Klein would not have known how serious the safety situation was in Frontenac Station.

Roads, Safety, and Taxes were the major issues for 2008 and will continue to be for several years to come. As we approach the upcoming annual meeting, please think of ideas that we can use to ease the financial stress currently facing the township. As always, the town board is available for you contact with your concerns, suggestions, and offer of assistance with township projects.

Joan Marshman, *Chair*
Florence Township Board

Friends of the Florence Town Hall



Erected 1875

“Friends of the Florence Town Hall”

... Is an organization dedicated to the preservation and continued use of the Florence Town Hall as the township government center, as it has represented self-government, local government, and continuity of government in Florence Township since 1875.”

In 2008 Florence Township celebrated 150 years as a primary unit of local government. The Township’s past, present and future were the focus of events at the Town Hall throughout the year. In addition to the business of local government conducted by elected officials, the Town Hall hosted the General Election as it has since its construction.

During the summer months the Town Hall steps provided an elevated view of the Highway 61 construction project. Township volunteers tending the Town Hall memorial garden and the community garden worked along side the noise and dust. Before construction crews arrived perennials from the west garden were moved to new locations and will continue to delight passersby. Township residents also saved plants and will enjoy them in their own yards. An organized gardening schedule early last spring brought new volunteers who will continue their service to the

President: Judy Johnson
Vice President: Evelyn Keister
Treasurer: Mary Kohrs
Secretary: Virginia Oliver

Membership:

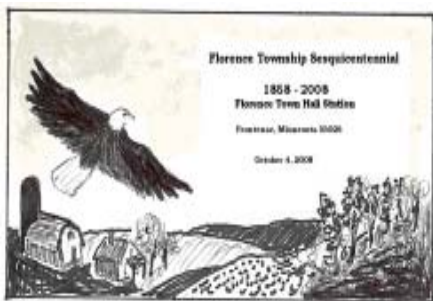
Individual Yearly \$ 5.00
Individual LIFETIME \$50.00
Family LIFETIME \$100.00

**Meet monthly 2nd Tuesday,
7:00 pm at Town Hall Annual Meeting
in October.**

community in 2009. Please consider helping volunteers and Friends as they work or pull weeds on your own schedule.

The Florence Township Town Hall History Center set visitors hours in the summer after volunteers installed a combination door to give visitors a comfortable environment. The History Center will again be open beginning in June on the 1st Saturday of summer months from 10 am - 12-noon.

After the dust from road construction settled in September, the Town Hall got a fresh coat of paint.



Commemorative cancellation stamp designed by township resident Chuck Grimm

Just in time for the October 4th Sesquicentennial festivities featuring the Town Hall Postal Station and the commemorative cancellation stamp designed by township resident Chuck Grimm. Collectors from near and far sought the stamp. Historical exhibits and characters from the past were features of the day. Visit the Florence Township web site at www.florencetwp.org. Click on **Friends of the Town Hall** tab to view photos from the day. The Florence Town Hall is featured in a new publication “Tales of the Road, Highway 61” written by Cathy Wurzer and introduced in her program at the Town Hall.

The Town Hall stage advertising curtain which had been loaned to the Goodhue County Historical Society several years ago must be returned because of storage space issues. It has been cleaned and was displayed for several years. A large photo of the curtain is at the Town Hall on the display stand. Residents who want to help bring back the curtain should contact Florence Township Supervisors.

The Florence Town Hall is entering its 134th year of service to the Township. Friends of the Town Hall invite everyone to join us in stewardship and appreciation.

THANKS for using the recycling bin and keeping the area neat. No junk!!!

Frontenac Sportsmans Club

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Community Center and the 275 members are very busy sponsoring events and projects in the community.

Upcoming events:

Pancake Breakfast to raise funds - March 21, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at Applebees Restaurant in Red Wing.

Easter Egg Hunt - April 11 at 10:00 a.m. - Community Center (public welcome).

Lake Pepin Fishing Contest - April 25 & 26 - Red Wing.

Master Walleye Circuit Contest - May 16 & 17 - Lake City

We provide several environmental scholarships, support wild game programs, provide funding for the Environmental Learning Centers and help with the upkeep of the Community Center.

For more information contact Mason Grobe 651-345-5219.

Christ Episcopal Church

For 142 years, Christ Episcopal Church has been serving its members at the same Frontenac site with the same church building that was constructed in 1867. It was designed and funded by Nathaniel McLean and constructed by local craftsmen led by master builder Henry Huneke. The interior and the exterior of the church are original and an excellent example of 1860's church design and construction.

In 2008, Karen Schulenberg and Kathy Daniels developed an excellent history of the Christ Church cemetery. This information is available at the Church and will be available to the public in future writings.

The 20 families that are members of the Church have established a

Christ Church Restoration Fund to restore the exterior of the Church. It has weathered well, but the siding, roof, steeple, doors, and windows need to be repaired or replaced with historically correct materials. To assist with the funding, the Church is offering "Frontenac Remembered" bookmarks that present Frontenac heritage and a convenient way to record important "ear marks" while reading books. The bookmarks are offered in sets of twelve (12) with each set containing eight (8) unique heritage bookmarks and four (4) "My Books" reading record bookmarks. Fifteen (15) different sets (120 unique heritage bookmarks) will be offered over the next year. Contact a Christ Church member or call (651) 345-2641 or email to b.flies@mchsi.com for more information.

Retiring Officers



John Wurst: John has been our supervisor for 15 years. He acquired much experience from his father who was a supervisor for 16 years and his mother was treasurer for 25 plus years.

John has done a great job and his township expertise will be missed. Thanks, John, for your great works.



Bill Laidlaw: Bill has been our treasurer for 10 years. He has been instrumental in putting the financial reports on the computer. This has enabled him to produce detailed reports to enable the supervisors to be up-to-date on the financial situation of the township.

Bill has done a great job and he will be missed. Thanks, Bill for your great works.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make our township work so efficiently. We couldn't do it without you!

Frontenac Cemetery Association

2008 was an average year with seven funerals. \$5,000 worth of lots were sold and the perpetual care fees from funerals was \$1,437.50. We have \$3,608.09 in the checking account and \$37,944.63 invested in the perpetual care fund. This fund took a significant hit due to the stock market situation. Lots are priced at \$250 each and for information call Clay Ruggles at 651-345-4265.

This year's Cemetery Board Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 3rd, 9:00 a.m. at the Whistle Stop.

Fire/Emergency Signs

For years now we have been trying to get each resident to put up their five (5) number address to enable emergency units to find you when needed. A few of you have not done it! To order a sign, call Emergency Management at 651-267-2640.

The Florence Wizards 4-H Club

This 4-H club serves the Florence Township area with 25 members with ages from 5 to 19. They work on a broad list of projects that they show at the Goodhue County Fair in Zumbrota in the second week of August. Many of the winners go on to the State Fair. Projects include showing livestock, garden produce, tractor restoration, crafts, sewing projects, photography, foods and educational displays on everything from aerospace to the life of a zebra mussel.

They do community service by cleaning two miles of Highway 61; sing and entertain the residents of River Oaks and bring them gifts. They participate in a County 4-H fund-raiser by holding a hog roast on April 26th in Goodhue.

They meet on the first Monday of the month (April 6th) at the Frontenac Community Center at 6:30 p.m. They greatly appreciate being able to meet at this fine facility.

If you are interested and want more information, please contact Greta Schreiber at 651-388-7256.



Christ Church - 1970

Christ Episcopal Church was built at the corner of Westervelt & McLean in 1867. It was designed & funded by Nathaniel McLean and built by German & Swiss craftsmen led by Henry Huneke. The interior is an excellent example of 1860's craft with original windows and art. You are welcome to tour the church and the surrounding cemetery. Services are held every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.



Christ Church - 1870

Set 01 - # 07

Frontenac State Park News

Frontenac grew in two ways this year. First the park acquired 100.58 acres of lake front wetland and lowland forest from the Villa Maria Center. The park's statutory boundary grew as well with the addition of two parcels that were included in the Department's 2008 Land bill passed by the legislature. The bill added a 38.5 acre parcel to the west end of the park and a 34 acre parcel adjacent Old Frontenac near the east end of the park. The bill also removed 50.69 acres of developed small lots and Township land, resulting in a net gain of about 22 acres.

Total park visitation in 2008 was 97,642, up 370 from 207 and overnight use was 15,671, up 19 from 2007. Interpretive program use was up 61% this year, due in large part to volunteer naturalist Bruce Ause, as he was able to offer a program nearly every Saturday from May into October. In addition, the park's May campground hostess, Carole Brysky led a few bird hikes in May and the park had 4 special programs as part of the State's Sesquicentennial celebration. Plus visits by Lake City schools 8th graders and Pepin schools 3rd graders, also boosted program numbers.

Park staff worked with the Frontenac State Park Association to plant another 100 trees and work on recent plantings. The Association chair

inventoried some of the past plantings to determine where the new trees were needed to replace seedlings that have died.

Frontenac is fortunate to have the services of Department of Corrections Sentence to Service crews from Goodhue County for a variety of projects each year. In 2008, crews built a new top for the cart-in campsites vault toilet, burned buckthorn and ash cutting piles, and split firewood for use in the warming shelters at the park.

Dogs off leash in the park are a growing problem and thus, stiffer enforcement has become necessary. Visitors are simply ignoring the signs. Park management has started writing warnings to offenders and will follow up with tickets if necessary. Many local visitors like to bring their dogs into the park and that is fine, but for the safety of other visitors and the natural resources of the park, the dogs must ALWAYS be on a lease when in the park. Secondly, during the winter, dogs and hikers are not allowed on the groomed ski trails, as they tend to damage the track or leave droppings on the trail spoiling the experience for the skiers.

Seven burns covering 232 acres were conducted in 2008. About 40 acres of buckthorn and honeysuckle were removed from land on the newly acquired beach ridge adjacent Sand

Point and along Highway 61. This area shows great promise for restoration as an oak savanna. Hats off to the park crew who completed the work in 18 days.

Frontenac was fortunate to receive some bonding funds to restore 45 acres of old field to prairie along the main park road between the picnic area and campground. The project was started in 2008 and will be completed in 2009.

Frontenac conducted a 3-day special deer hunt in the park this year. 53 hunters culled 45 deer from the area herd. The results were acceptable, but below the hoped for number of 60-70.

XCEL Energy replaced a problematic underground electric service line from the picnic area to the campground. The large enclosed picnic shelter interior received a new coat of paint, as did the steel doors on that same building and the campground sanitation building. The new cart-in vault top, the picnic area and the two older vaults in the campground also were painted inside and out.

Finally, the updated park management plan, started in 2006, was approved and signed by the DNR Commissioner in November. A few copies of the printed plan are available at the park for those interested. One copy will be given to the Town Board to have available as well.



The doors open out...

The Villa Maria Retreat Center has had opportunities all winter to "get to know" our neighbors from the south...that is Brazil and Iowa. We have welcomed people from Africa, China, Europe, and the Mid East, as well as "locals" from California to Vermont. A great variety of folks have entered our doors, each seeking a time and place for reflection, renewal and healing.

Snow and sub-zero weather provided a new experience for some

guests this winter, but our Midwest hospitality quickly warmed things up! And this summer, there will be new and returning folks experiencing our great outdoors: exploring our woodland trails, walking the labyrinth, or simply resting and being present. Birdwatchers, youth groups, women's retreats, men's retreats, quilters, writers, painters, and "ordinary folks" all become "pray-ers" savoring the gifts of time and quiet, whether alone or sitting in community. The beauty of Frontenac is truly enjoyed all year long.

Looking into the summer, we will once again take on an international flavor as we are the site for the Concordia Language Village "Hometown USA". This will be our

third summer hosting the English Language Education Program. We expect about 75 students, ages 8 to 17, flying in from about 15 different countries. Some of the students will be here for two weeks while others stay the entire month of July. It is a time of education for us as well as the students!

If you would like to learn more about your neighbor, the Villa Maria Retreat and Conference Center, please check our website:

www.villamariaretreats.org, or stop in and say hello!

Blessings,
Sr. Rose Elsbernd, FSPA
Director, Villa Maria



Florence Township
 PO Box 97
 Frontenac, MN 55026

2010 Proposed Budget

| | 2008 Budget | 2008 Actual | 2009 Budget | 2010 Proposed |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Road grading & repair | \$50,000 | \$59,611 | \$60,000 | \$60,000 |
| Snow plowing | 45,000 | 48,124 | 45,000 | 50,000 |
| Rock/Gravel | 15,000 | 17,380 | 25,000 | 20,000 |
| Blacktop | 25,000 | 951 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Chloride | 20,000 | 18,826 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Brushing | 5,000 | 6,120 | 5,000 | 2,000 |
| Special & Reserve | 30,000 | 18,030 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Mowing | 4,000 | 1,365 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Railroad Crossing | 20,000 | 1,345 | Ø | Ø |
| <i>Sub Total</i> | <i>214,000</i> | <i>171,752</i> | <i>204,000</i> | <i>201,000</i> |
| Gas & Gravel Taxes | (20,000) | (18,150) | (20,000) | (22,000) |
| Total Roads | \$194,000 | \$153,602 | \$184,000 | \$179,000 |
| | | | | |
| Fire Contract | 30,000 | 48,142 | 30,000 | 40,000 |
| Planning | 2,000 | 60 | 2,500 | 1,500 |
| Heritage | 3,000 | Ø | 2,000 | 1,000 |
| Salaries & Education | 17,000 | 15,472 | 16,000 | 16,000 |
| Town Hall | 5,000 | 4,174 | 5,000 | 3,000 |
| Parks | 5,000 | 4,495 | 7,000 | 5,000 |
| Community Center (net) | 3,000 | 407 | 3,000 | 2,000 |
| Ambulance | 12,000 | 11,271 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 10,000 | 13,472 | 10,000 | 12,000 |
| (dues, insurance, newsletter, etc) | | | | |
| TOTAL | \$281,000 | \$251,095 | \$271,500 | \$271,500 |